

# MOPS

## Mothers of Preschoolers

### Plaquemine, Louisiana

### Teaching Children

I've told my husband for years that if he comes home and the house looks exactly the same as when he left that means I've been cleaning and picking up things all day. The area surrounding my feet can become flooded with toys in the few minutes it takes me to make lunch! As a mother of 4 preschoolers and a first grader I know all too well that children are messy. It's a lot of fun to play with Thomas the Train, all his friends and his 15 ft. of track as he circles the Dora kitchen, all her food and dishes but it's not so fun to clean it all up...it's not fun for you or your child. If your house is like mine, getting the children to clean up is a battle. It's much easier to do it on your own rather than trying to convince a child or children to lend a helping hand.

I've often taken the approach, "I'm just going to do it myself because I can do it better and faster." In the short term both of those things are true but I believe that ultimately we are doing an injustice to our children by not working alongside them, teaching them the importance of not only cleaning up after themselves but also taking time to teach them all about the things in the world around us.

Making a fun game out of cleaning up is one way to change their perspective. How about involving the children in helping to make lunch or dinner then getting them to help you with the cleanup? Use the example that Mommy makes a mess when she cooks dinner and has to clean it up just like you make a mess with your toys and have to clean them up. Spending time with your child cooking and cleaning up is a way you can show love to your child...an emotion they won't feel if they are sitting in front of the TV while you are running like mad in the kitchen. This type of quality time makes the child feel valued, especially if lots of praise is given out. Of course involving a child in any activity will mean you have to start a little earlier and it may take a little longer but think of the reward. You are making memories that will last for years to come as well as teaching great habits.

By: Allison Horton

### MOPS Outing

February Field Trip

Invite a friend and join us!  
We're getting out and  
having a play date!

Friday, February 25

10:00 am

LASM

(Louisiana Arts & Science Museum)  
100 River Road South  
Downtown Baton Rouge  
Across from the River Center

Cost:

\$7 Adults

\$6 Children 2-12

Children under 2 free

### Freebies...

Did you know that the LASM offers free admission to art, children's and planetarium galleries on the first Sunday of every month? Open 1-4 pm.

## Mark Your Calendars....

**February 25**  
MOPS Outing  
Louisiana Arts & Science Museum

**March 11**  
Regular MOPS Meeting  
9:30-11:30 am  
FBC Plaquemine

**March 25**  
MOPS Outing  
Baton Rouge Zoo

**April 8**  
Regular MOPS Meeting

**April 15**  
MOPS Outing  
Easter Egg Hunt

**May 13**  
Regular MOPS Meeting



**Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one's youth.  
Blessed is the man  
who fills his quiver with them!**

Psalm 127:3-5

## Kid Friendly Events in February...

### **Pinkalicious**

Performance by Playmakers of Baton Rouge  
February 20, 25, 26 & 27 @ Manship Theater  
Info: (225) 344-0334 or visit [www.manshiptheatre.org](http://www.manshiptheatre.org)

### **I Love My Zoo Day**

February 12 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. @ Baton Rouge Zoo  
Safari Amphitheater programs, Valentine crafts, etc.  
Info: (225) 775-3877 or visit [www.brzoo.org](http://www.brzoo.org)

### **Happy Birthday Elmo**

February 26 at 2 pm @ Borders Bookstore  
Music, stories and crafts  
Info: (225) 769-2112

### **Rockin S Rodeo**

February 26  
Lamar Dixon Expo Center  
Info: [www.lamardixonexpoctr.com](http://www.lamardixonexpoctr.com)

## Plaquemine MOPS

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